

For a large portion of my life, I joined Ross and other businessmen and professionals for lunch at The Roundtable. While there was a lot of talk of sports and politics, I learned a lot more about life by listening to Mr. Beach. From our earliest meeting to just last month, he was my friend and adviser. I hate the thought that no longer do I have the ability to pick up the phone and see what Mr. Beach thought of one of my ideas or to discuss what was going on in our small-town neighborhood or what was happening on the world stage.

My friendship with Mr. Beach certainly opened doors in business and politics; but, more importantly, he gave me the confidence to realize that this small-town Kansas kid could one day be able to serve his State and the Congress of the United States of America.

While my family and I are saddened by the death of Ross Beach, we take comfort in knowing the legacy of Mr. Beach will endure far beyond our own generation. While Ross Beach may have donated his talents and treasure, it is his caring nature and generous soul that I and many others will miss most. To Marianna and daughters Mary McDowell and husband Gary; Terry Edwards and husband R.A.; and Jane Hipp and husband Steve, I offer my deepest sympathies. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a man dedicated to service and committed to making Kansas and America a better place to live and work.

We are told to whom much is given much is expected. Ross Beach more than fulfilled this expectation, and I'm honored this evening to pay tribute to an amazing, larger-than-life man that I had the fortune to know for nearly 35 years. The man who loved to fly soared throughout his life and landed safely on heaven's shore.

PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Next week will mark the 8-month anniversary of the new health care law. When we started this debate almost 2 years ago, I relied on my longtime experience in the medical field to come up with four principles that I strongly believe should be in any health care reform. The first was that health care reform should lower costs. That has yet to happen under this law. Instead, the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services projected that overall national health spending would increase an average of 6.3 percent a year over the next decade under the new law. In addition, the law imposes more than half a trillion dollars in tax increases. It imposes more than \$210 billion in new payroll taxes that could hit small business owners.

The Medicare actuary has reported that health care costs would actually increase over the next decade by a total of \$310.8 billion. The Congressional Budget Office, or the CBO, wrote that most of the major saving proposals in the health care law are "widely expected" to be scaled back or would be difficult to sustain for a long period. That means higher deficits.

The second principal for health care reform is that it should increase access to care. That has yet to happen under the new law. Instead, major health insurance companies in California and other States simply have decided to stop selling policies for children rather than complying with the new Federal law that bars them from rejecting youngsters with preexisting conditions. While these insurance companies are not distinguishing themselves, the reality is that they will always look out for their bottom line.

The Medicare actuary found that provisions in the law will cause as many as 40 percent of Medicare providers to become unprofitable over time, thus "providers would have to withdraw from providing services to Medicare beneficiaries." This will mean problems with access to care. An example is, in Texas, over the last 2 years, more than 300 primary care physicians have stopped seeing seniors.

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My third principle is that we should preserve the innovations and improvements that have allowed this country to pioneer new treatments, medications, and equipment. Yet, under this law, there will be \$107 billion in taxes on drug and device manufacturers and insurers. That is more money for taxes and less money for innovation.

The bill requires small businesses to file 1099 forms to any vendor with which they spend more than \$600 in a given year. That will affect 40 million businesses that will be involved in increased paperwork at a huge cost, detracting from their ability to invest in research and development.

Finally, I believe that any reform of our health care system should preserve the decisionmaking process between the patient and the patient's physician, not the government, not a bureaucrat, and certainly not anyone from a health insurance company, but the new health care law does just the opposite.

In one estimate, the law creates 159 various bureaucracies and commissions, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the Congressional Research Service essentially threw its hands up in the air and concluded "the precise number of entities that will be created is currently unknowable." The administration has released 4,103 pages of regulations and is still going strong. Soon the government will be in control of every aspect of health care, but I assume that was the ultimate goal.

This 2,700-page law is, as the CRS says, "currently unknowable." Our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, had it right

when she said the House would "have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it." Yet what we do know about it violates all four of the principles on which any health care reform should be based.

I supported the Republican alternative 6 months ago, H.R. 3400, the Empowering Patients First Act. It includes my principles and it deserves support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity.

Coming off the elections, everyone wants to know what the voters had on their minds. I'll share with you a few things that I heard from my voters in my district and throughout California—perhaps experiences similar from around America.

They want jobs. They want to work.

I think all of us in one way or another understands and feels within us the need to work. It's part of our lives. There are a few, undoubtedly, around who don't ever want to work—and okay for them—but for most Americans, they want a job. They want the opportunity to bring home a paycheck, to support their families—to provide for their food, their shelter, their opportunities for education, and to go on a vacation every now and then. That basic instinct—that basic desire to care for your family, to help build a community—I think is part of America. Americans want jobs. If there were ever a message from this year's elections, it's that.

Now, this isn't new to those of us who are here in the Chamber. It's not